

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Science 101

January 30, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

This letter is in support of the application of Miss Helen L. Byers for a University Fellowship, Scholarship, or Assistantship, at the University of Wisconsin, to do work under your direction in connection with studies looking towards a doctor's degree. I know Miss Byers well since she has acted as assistant in one phase or another in the work of the *Drosophila* group here, ever since she entered Indiana University as a freshman in 1945. She has taken all the courses which I give here and is currently conducting a large-scale mutation experiment on *Drosophila*. Although this is under my general direction, she has reached the stage at which the whole physical organization of the work as well as the carrying on of all the genetic operations is in her own hands, and she conducts it without supervision from me or anyone else.

For work in genetics Miss Byers has a good background in biological lines of varied kinds and in other branches of science important for such work. She also has a thorough foundation in genetics itself. She has an interest in the subject which is ever growing livelier. She is a person of complete integrity and considerable versatility, adjustable to realities and agreeably cooperative, while at the same time independent-spirited and tough-minded. She appreciates and profits by criticism. She has much endurance and is not afraid of hard work. She is quick at her work, although perhaps a little too quick.

Although I should be glad to see her enter a field so productive and so rich in its promise of future results as that in which you are the leader, I shall be sorry to lose her from the work here even if she does get to go to Wisconsin. I should have been happy to have her go on to her doctorate here and am confident that she would have achieved it. It is true that her grades at Indiana University have not always been first-class, but this is partly because she has always had a heavy load of work on her various jobs and partly because she is one of those persons who, although not brilliant, is better at accomplishment than at the formalities of academic scholarship. It should be added that she has the qualities desirable in a good teacher, so that if she obtains her doctorate she would be valuable in a university position of any type likely to be open to her.

Yours sincerely,


H. J. Muller

BVB